

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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BANGKOK FOR ESCAP POPULATION CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNFPA UNDP AORG

SUBJ: UNDP 22ND GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNFPA WRAP-UP (ITEM 12)

REF: A. GENEVA 4933 B. GENEVA 4940

1. SUMMARY: IN CONSTRUCTIVE AND WELL-INFORMED
DEBATE, COUNCIL APPLAUDED INITIATIVES OF UNFPA EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR SALAS IN MOVING TO CORE PROGRAMMING, ESTABLISHING
MINIMUM COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND SETTLING PRIORITIES FOR
APPLICATION OF LIMITED RESOURCES IN RELATION TO AIDWORTHY
PROJECT PROPOSALS. FUND GIVEN HIGH MARKS FOR PERFORMANCE,
FISCAL INTEGRITY AND DOCUMENTATION IN GENERAL. COUNCIL
URGED FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES. APPROVAL
AUTHORITY FOR 1977 REDUCED TO \$95 MILLION SUBJECT TO
REVIEW AT 23RD COUNCIL SESSION. DE-EMPHASIS OF
REGIONAL, INTERREGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS WAS
COUPLED WITH INCREASED FOCUS ON COUNTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMMING
AND GREATER RESORT TO DIRECT FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERN-
MENT EXECUTION OF PROJECTS. COUNCIL CALLED FOR REDUCED
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SUPPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

REJECTING ANY WEAKENING OF UNFPA ASSOCIATION WITH UNDP, COUNCIL NEVERTHELESS ENDORSED GREATER FUND INFLUENCE IN APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION POLICIES AFFECTING OWN STAFF. ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET APPROVED FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION OF RECLASSIFICATION PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY

2. FINANCES: STRONG SUPPORT GIVEN TO UNFPA FISCAL POLICIES, MAINTENANCE OF FULLY LIQUID OPERATIONAL RESERVE AND LIMITING OF ALLOCATION TO AMOUNT OF ACTUAL RESOURCES. SALAS ANNOUNCED INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1976 FROM CANADA 50 PCT, DENMARK 42 PCT, JAPAN 29 PCT AND NORWAY 30 PCT WHICH, SHOULD U.S. CONTRIBUTE \$25 MILLION, WOULD CONSTITUTE 21 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1975 CONTRIBUTIONS. SEVERAL MAJOR DONORS (JAPAN, NORWAY, U.K.) CALLED FOR GREATER BURDEN SHARING WHILE INCREASED PLEDGES FOR 1977 WERE ANNOUNCED BY CANADA, BELGIUM AND UK. ARAB PLEDGES, WHICH SO FAR AMOUNT TO SOME \$10 MILLION OF PROMISED \$25 MILLION OVER 2 YEARS, WERE SEEN AS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT.

3. MULTI-BI: IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED FUND-RAISING DONORS IN 1977 AT \$9 MILLION), MULTI-BILATERAL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH SWEDEN AND MEXICO INVOLVING INPUTS OF \$2 MILLION AND \$22.5 MILLION RESPECTIVELY AND WITH HAITI AND UNFPA INVOLVING \$2.6 MILLION AND \$3.6 MILLION RESPECTIVELY. KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORTED TO BE CONSIDERING SUBSTANTIAL MULTI-BI POPULATION ASSISTANCE IN "EDUCATIONAL" SECTOR.

4. ALLOCATIONS: WITH CURRENT AIDWORTHY REQUESTS AT \$109 MILLION FOR 1976 AND EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO \$120 MILLION IN 1977, FUND CONTINUALLY SEEKING MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES. OUTLAYS INCLUDE ONLY 47 PCT FOR PERSONNEL COSTS WITH TWICE AS MUCH GOING TO LOCAL AS TO INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS. INCREASED DIRECT FINANCING OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS WIDELY PRAISED. COUNCIL AT SAME TIME URGED GREATER ATTENTION TO MONITORING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN VIEW OF REDUCED USE OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AND LESS EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FOR PROJECT EXECUTION.

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5. CORE: RECOGNITION OF ACTIVITY APPROPRIATE TO UNFPA CONSTITUTING A "CORE" PROGRAM (WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE TANGENTIAL MATTERS SUCH AS MORTALITY, COMMUNITY HEALTH, ETC.) GENERALLY ACCEPTED. VERY CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE ON THIS CONCEPT MOST GRATIFYING. DELIMITING NATURE OF "CORE" TO BE FURTHER REFINED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, OF MINIMUM COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES. VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS

APPROVAL OF THIS APPROACH TEMPERED BY INSISTENCE (ESPECIALLY ON PART OF LDC REPRESENTATIVES) UPON FLEXIBILITY IN REGARD TO THE ACTUAL USE OF THESE CRITERIA CONCERNING PROGRAM DURATION AND COUNTRIES CHOSES. MOST SPEAKERS REJECTED THE NOTION THAT COUNTRIES OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY HAVE LOWER PRIORITY IN UNFPA'S RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS. HOWEVER, IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT AID SHOULD GO TO COUNTRIES HAVING GREATEST NEED.

6. REGIONAL: SALAS PROPOSED AND COUNCIL READILY ENDORSED A REVIEW OF REGIONAL, INTERREGIONAL AND BLOBAL ACTIVITIES TO DETERMINE THEIR UTILITY AND APPROPRIATENESS TO COUNTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMMING. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOST SUCH ACTIVITIES NOT CLEARLY RELEVANT TO COUNTRY PROBLEMS WOULD IN FUTURE BE SEVERELY CURTAILED. IN A RELATED ISSUE, NUMEROUS COUNCILM MEMBERS LED BY SWEDEN REITERATE D SUPPORT FOR PHASE-OUT OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BY UNFPA TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES EXCEPT IN CASES LINKED TO COUNTRY-LEVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

7. APPROVAL AUTHORITY: COUNCIL GENERALLY SKEPTICAL OF SALAS' ARITHMETIC IN PREDICTING RESOURCES OF \$100 MILLION FOR 1977 AS BASIS FOR PROPOSED APPROVAL AUTHORITY. LDC'S WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF INDIA INCLINED TO AGREE TO SALAS' PROPOSAL WHILE CANADA, SWEDEN AND U.S. RECOMMENDED \$90 MILLION AS THE INITIAL 1977 LEVEL. EASY COMPROMISE REACHED OF \$95 MILLION, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT 23RD SESSION.

8. ADMINISTRATION: PHILIPPINE CALL FOR GREATER UNFPA AUTONOMY WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY COUNCIL WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERALLY WAS WARY OF ATTEMPTS AT DECENTRALIZATION AND UNDERMINING PRESENT CLOSE UNDP/UNFPA RELATIONSHIP. SALAS IN EFFECT MUTED SUCH ATTEMPTS AND IN PRESENCE OF ADMINISTRATOR MORSE PRAISED INSPIRING SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM UNDP AND MORSE. HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED REQUEST, CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED, FOR GREATER FUND ROLE IN PERSONNEL POLICIES AFFECTING UNFPA. HIS STANCE WAS SUPPORTED IN COUNCIL DECISIONS REPORTED SEPTEL. ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCIL SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED SALAS' POSITIVE STEWARDSHIP (SEE GENEVA 4940).

9. PROJECTS: WHILE THERE WAS SHARP CRITICISM- NOTABLY BY NETHERLANDS - OF SOME OF UNFPA'S REPORTS IN REGARD TO PROPOSED COUNTRY AGREEMENTS AND BIENNIEL

COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS, THERE WAS WIDE PRAISE FOR
THE QUALITY OF THE MANY OTHER DOCUMENTATIONS SUBMITTED
BY UNFPA FOR COUNCIL REVIEW. IN THE FUTURE, THE FORMAT
FAVORED BY THE U.S. FOR BIENNIEL COUNTRY REVIEW
DOCUMENTS (SEE UNEC D-304, ITEM 12E) WILL BE FOLLOWED.
ALL COUNTRY PROJECTS WERE APPROVED AND SECOND PHASE
FUNDING OF ALL 2-YEAR OLD PROGRAMS REVIEWED WAS
AUTHORIZED.DALE

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